

From: Joseph Lazzaro
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:07am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

As a system administrator and programmer for a small web-related company, I am very concerned that the proposed Microsoft settlement will prove ineffective in preventing the monopolistic behavior that has hindered the growth of viable Microsoft alternatives. Furthermore, I believe that it will in fact help to further Microsoft's unfair dominance of the operating system and PC applications market.

Of particular concern is any plan that would have Microsoft place Microsoft-based computer systems and software in schools. While I agree that our schools require attention in this regard, I feel that this will a) not punish Microsoft for their proven illegal behavior as it is of no real cost to them (the software, once written, incurs no cost to distribute), and b) enforce Microsoft's dominance by training future generations in a Microsoft-centric manner, as students would not see and appreciate alternatives.

Another concern is that by not breaking up Microsoft into an Operating System arm and an Applications arm, APIs remain closed and the opportunity for competitive, interoperable software is greatly hindered. This will allow Microsoft to continue to extort the public with forced upgrades to read arbitrarily changed file formats. The consumer public is, in a very real sense, held hostage by the hold that Microsoft has on these APIs.

I have seen the damage the Microsoft Monopoly has caused first hand in my field of work, but it is my hope that with the continued perseverance of the Department of Justice in the rightful prosecution of this criminal behavior, some relief is attainable.

Thank you.

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